

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Hamilton-Ely Farmstead

other names/site number: Minor, Evelyn, House

2. Location

street & number 1055 Sugar Run Road, Waynesburg N/A not for publication
city or town Whiteley Township N/A vicinity
state Pennsylvania code PA county Greene code 059 Zip 15370

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Andrea MacDonella

January 17, 2006

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the
National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

 X building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | Noncontributing |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| <u>4</u> | <u> </u> buildings |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> sites |
| <u>1</u> | <u> </u> structures |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> objects |
| <u>5</u> | <u>0</u> Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

| | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Cat: DOMESTIC | Sub: single dwelling |
| AGRICULTURE | processing |
| AGRICULTURE | animal facility |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: VACANT/NOT IN USE Sub: _____

7. Description

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Hamilton-Ely Farmstead
Greene County, Pennsylvania

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival
Federal

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Sandstone
roof METAL
walls BRICK
WOOD
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1803-1955

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hamilton, Jack

Blair, William, and Sons

Ely, John W.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 17 570288E 4409881N 2 _____

3 _____ 4 _____

☐ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Terry A. Necciai, RA, Project Architect

Organization: John Milner Associates date May 2004

street & number: 5250 Cherokee Avenue, Suite 300 telephone 703-354-9737

city or town Alexandria state VA zip code 22312

Additional Documentation

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Hamilton-Ely Farmstead
Greene County, Pennsylvania

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Judi A. and John H. Higgins

street & number 338 Sy Huffman Hill Road telephone 703-792-7359

city or town Waynesburg state PA zip code 15370

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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7. Summary Description:

The nominated Hamilton-Ely Farmstead occupies two acres of a 42 acre farm in Whiteley Township, Greene County. The nominated property contains five resources: four contributing buildings, namely the ca.1835 farmhouse (photo #11), a ca.1930 barn (photo #8) (with elements remaining from an earlier stone-end barn), an 1803 springhouse (photos #2-5), and a ca.1870 washhouse (photos #23, 26-28), and a contributing structure, an 1872-74 drive-through corn crib (photo #23). The centerpiece of the property is a five bay brick farmhouse with a blend of Federal style, Greek Revival style, and Colonial Revival style details. The façade of the house is dominated by a large porch, originally a one-bay, two-story Greek Revival style design (photos #57-58), but modified with Colonial Revival style details around 1900 so that the first floor level of the porch extends across the entire façade (photo #12). The majority of the surrounding 40 acres of the present real estate tract (outside the nominated boundary), greatly reduced from the original acreage of the farm, has not been actively worked for a couple of decades apart from cutting hay.

However, the house is the focal point of the two-acre nominated area. The four other contributing resources that occupy the two-acre area create a picturesque setting around the house, typical of Greene County farmsteads, where stone springhouses, frame washhouses, drive-through corncribs, and bank barns are common. The property retains integrity, particularly as almost no changes have been made to the house, corn crib, washhouse, and springhouse since the 1910s, and the barn remains almost unchanged since about 1930.

The Hamilton-Ely Farmstead is located near the head of the Dyers Fork Valley. The nominated property consists of two acres of real estate that was once the center of a much larger farm that extended to the western edge of the valley of Dyers Fork. The farmstead occupies a small shelf of land overlooking Dyers Fork. The level area contains the house, washhouse, and drive-through corncrib. A long, gently-sloped field in front of the house descends from the house to Dyers Fork, where a narrow access road (photo #2) that follows the stream leads to the property from Sugar Run Road. The springhouse and barn are banked into sites in the sloped area so that they frame the view looking up from the road to the house. The washhouse and corncrib are behind the house, generally out of view from the road. Behind them, the land rises more steeply (photo #7), with overgrown areas separating the farmstead from additional fields a few hundred feet up the hill. Other landscape features, which are not counted as separate resources, include two cast-iron pumps over wells near the kitchen and a row of pine trees planted about 1950.

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The Hamilton-Ely House is two stories, with an ell floor plan. The gable roof has standing seam metal roofing with almost no overhang at the eaves. It is punctuated by a modest-sized chimney at each of the three gable ends (photos #24-25). The original brick walls of the house feature a Federal-style tripartite center front doorway with an elliptical fanlight in each story (photos #14-15, 18). Built into the fanlight is an ornamental sunburst detail consisting of sun-ray-shaped wood pieces that extend between the muntins. The brick is Flemish bond on the façade (southeast elevation) and on the southwest side elevation (the other long side of the ell-plan form) and common bond on all other elevations. While the center bay of the façade has an arched opening at the doorway, all the remaining original openings of the first and second stories have sandstone lintels and sills (photo #15). There is distinctive three-part ornamental detailing at the ends and center of each lintel stone in the facade. The ornaments are scroll-cornered squares in a section that projects from an otherwise plain surface textured with light tool marks. The windows are original 6/6 wood sash. Some of the windows have mill-finished aluminum storm windows. Almost all the panes are of hand blown glass. The gable ends have 4-pane, single-sash attic windows. The basement is dressed sandstone in large ashlar blocks in areas where the stone was exposed in the original design. A doorway to the left (southwest side) of the original porch (now accessed by walking under the ca.1900 porch) provides an entrance to a finished room in the only fully excavated section of the basement. This doorway has a tooled lintel with very shallow and elegant basket-handle arch shape (photo #13) carved from the bottom surface of the stone to allow for the top edge of the door jamb.

The front porch is composed of Tuscan columns of lathe-turned wood supporting a gently sloped metal hip roof over the first story, while the second story section of the porch is only one bay wide and has a front-facing gable creating a simple pediment over the second story center bay. The columns are connected in each level by railings with turned balusters. Approximately one fourth of the balusters are missing, mainly in the second story and a small section at the southwest corner of the first. At the sides of the second story portion of the porch, solid wood panels were used in place of a balustrade to mask the adjoining sloped roof of the first floor part of the porch. Below the floor of the porch's lower level are tooled sandstone piers supporting the Tuscan columns (photos #20-21). Between the piers, the space beneath the porch is closed-in with wood lattice. The lattice is prominently visible across the front because the banked position of the house on a gently-sloped site leaves about five feet of exposed area from the front edge of the porch floor down to grade. Ten wide wooden steps descend to grade from the center bay of the porch.

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In addition to the front porch, there is a side porch and a partially-enclosed rear porch (photos #22, 26, 50). The shed-roofed side porch is toward the back of the southwest elevation of the house, where it shelters an entrance to the original kitchen in the ell-wing. On the other side of the kitchen ell is the back porch, originally a two-story, open, ell-shaped porch facing into the area in front of the wash house, though three-fourths of it is now closed-in with wood frame walls. Half of the first level of the porch was closed-in with a wood stud wall about 1920 to create a small kitchen. The kitchen was never completely fitted out with fixtures, and today it has only a sink and one small built-in cupboard (filling an original window opening), more like an enclosed porch in character than a room. The second story area above this small kitchen was closed-in at about the same time providing an access hallway from the center stairs to the rear bedroom. The enclosures in this half of the porch have beadboard interior surfaces. The remaining part of the first floor of the rear porch, behind the parlor, was enclosed in the mid-twentieth century with unfinished stud walls, apparently to shelter that side of the house against storms. The upper porch in this half remains open (photo #50). The upper level of the porch, in both the enclosed and open halves, has a distinctive ceiling with a board surface following the contour of curved rafters. The low height of the ceiling is the result of the porch roof being a continuation of the rear slopes of the gable roof.

Inside, the house has a typical center hall plan. A parlor and dining room flank the center hall, and the original kitchen is in the ell behind the dining room. Each of these three rooms is approximately 17 ft. by 17 ft., with a ceiling height of approximately 11 ft. The stairs and other wood details of the center hall are composed of walnut and oak (and perhaps other hardwoods). The woodwork in the rest of the house is consistent in character and style. It all appears to be walnut or a similar hardwood (except the floors, which are mixed grain, wide plank white oak), and at least half of the woodwork has been painted from an early date, perhaps since the house was constructed. In the center hall it has a faux finish resembling quarter sawn oak (photo #37), apparently done about 1900, perhaps when the lower level of the front porch was expanded. In the parlor and in the bedroom above the parlor, all the woodwork is painted white. In the dining room, the woodwork has a faux finish resembling mahogany (photos #38-39). In the kitchen, it was painted teal blue, and then faux grained, but some of the cupboard doors and trim in the kitchen have been stripped in an incomplete refinishing project. The doors between rooms are wide and have wide horizontal panels with applied mouldings. The panels are raised, but only on the less formal side each door. The house has several built-in chimney cupboards. The kitchen cupboard doors are paired,

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making their design seem much more vertical than the doors to the various rooms (photos #40-42). The doors of the chimney cupboard in the dining room are paired, with glazing in the upper section and paneled doors below. In the second story, two rooms have cupboards, but there are no fireplaces or mantelpieces. The bedroom above the parlor has wide cupboards flanking the chimney (photo #43), built flush with the face of the chimneybreast, clearly part of the original design of the house, but no fireplace. Each side has paired doors. While in the downstairs cupboards the upper cupboard doors cover about three quarters of the height of each cupboard, with smaller doors at the bottom, the pattern is reversed upstairs. In the bedroom above the parlor, the upper compartment of each cupboard is the smaller section, comprising about a third of the cupboard's total height.

The parlor, to the right of the center hall, has the formal detailing often used in the parlors of early nineteenth century houses in the region (photos #33-36). The room has matching front and rear windows. The side casings of the windows extend to the floor, and the area beneath the windows has a recessed panel directly beneath the sashes. The casings are moulded with ogival fluting. The corners of the window and door casings in most rooms have corner blocks with bull's-eye rosettes. The parlor mantelpiece has half-round Tuscan pilasters flanking the fireplace, but is otherwise bold and simple in its detailing. The wood trim is walnut, but appears to have been painted white through most of the house's history. The dining room mantelpiece is nearly identical to the one in the parlor, except for its dark-colored faux grain finish. The built-in chimney cupboard in the dining room is on the left side of the fireplace. The upper doors of the cupboard are glazed, with ten lights of hand-blown glass in each door. Along the top edge of the walls in both the parlor and the dining room is a band of picture moulding, painted to match the other finishes in each room. The original kitchen features a large "walk-in" cooking fireplace with stone facing around the firebox, trimmed in a simple mantelpiece of layered boards and mouldings with a narrow mantelshelf. To the right side (northeast side) of the fireplace is an enclosed stair to the back bedroom above. On the flanking side is a built-in chimney cupboard with walnut panel doors. There is also a low cupboard door leading to the space below the stairs.

The second story contains three large bedrooms, each one corresponding to one of the main rooms of the first story (parlor, dining room, and kitchen). The woodwork in the bedroom above the parlor is described above. It is unusually formal for a farmhouse bedroom in this area, having window casings that extend to the floor, windows on two opposing walls, and symmetrically-placed and generously proportioned chimney cupboards. The room has no evidence of a

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fireplace, though there is a thimble in the chimneybreast for a stovepipe. The bedroom above the dining room has similar but simpler detailing. It has a chimneybreast, but neither a chimney cupboard nor a fireplace. The rear bedroom has a cedar-lined cupboard to one side of the chimneybreast (photo #44). The cupboard, probably added in the early twentieth century, does not extend to the ceiling. It is enclosed by two large beadboard doors. There is an unusually sophisticated, though petit railing surrounding the top of the kitchen stair, as it rises into this room. It has tapered square newel posts, square balusters, and a round handrail.

The house's attic is unfinished. The rafters are round "logs," about seven inches in diameter, hewn only on the top surface (photo #46). Strips of lath, or "nailers," on six inch centers, serve in place of sheathing between the metal roof and the rafters. They are probably evidence that the roof originally had wood shingles. An unusual feature is that the attic floor has a plaster-like finish.

The house's basement consists of only one fully-excavated room, entered from the exterior (under the corner of the southwest two-bay extension of the porch, one of the two segments added when the porch was extended to full-width around 1900). The room was crudely plastered, walls and ceiling (photo #47), and apparently served as a summer kitchen and/or a space for farm-related food-preparation processes like canning and rendering. Access to a crawl space beneath the remaining rooms is through small openings beneath the porch. Secondary sources indicate that a large cache of abandoned whiskey barrels was found in the crawl space when the gas lines were installed, around 1900. The barrels were believed to date from the 1840s, when Jack Hamilton, the first owner of the house, lived on the farm while in his first years of operating a tavern five miles away in Waynesburg (the seat of Greene County and also the county's largest town). The opening from the space beneath the porch to the center bay is in a rough wall of rubble, intended to be hidden by the original center bay porch. Two other openings, leading to the space beneath the parlor, had wood ventilators in cut stone openings, with tilted wood bars. The bars have been removed from one opening to provide access to the space.

The Hamilton-Ely House is unusual in that it was one of the last major farm houses in Greene County to be occupied with almost no indoor running water or electricity. The house still has gaslight fixtures in all the rooms. Each room has a bronze-coated fixture at the center of the ceiling with one, two, or three gaslight chimneys. One of these fixtures, in the original kitchen, has been converted to an electric light, with two small exposed bulbs. Similarly, the light fixture

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in the bedroom above the parlor has been electrified, while the remaining rooms of the house can be lit from the ceiling only by turning on the natural gas. White glass shields, resembling upside down dishes, are suspended above the gaslight fixtures to prevent the gas flames from damaging the ceilings. Around 1960, a few electrical outlets were also added in the floors at the corners of first story rooms, and switches were added alongside several doorways to operate floor lamps. Limited bathroom amenities were added at some point in the washhouse rather than in the house. The only running water fixture ever installed inside the main house is a small stainless steel sinktop on legs in the section of enclosed porch that most-recently served as the kitchen.

Behind the house is a ca.1870 wood frame two-story washhouse, about fifteen ft. wide and about ten ft. deep (photos #23, 26-28). It is finished with boxcar siding and has a standing seam metal roof. The interior surfaces of the walls are finished with beadboard. Wood partitions partially enclose the first floor to create a couple of small spaces for plumbing fixtures. One of these is a ca.1900 bathtub. A second enclosure appears to have been built for a toilet, but the fixture is missing and only the downpipe in the floor indicates its location. The upper level of the washhouse, accessed by a set of steps in the western corner, appears to have served only as a storage area for household items since at least the 1960s. The washhouse has small, square, two-light, single-sash windows in both floors.

Near the washhouse is a drive-through corncrib (photo #23). This structure, which in silhouette resembles a stable or small barn, consists of two corncribs spaced far enough apart to store a vehicle between them, and an upper room large enough to store hay or other farm goods. It was built in two phases, in 1872 and 1874, as evidenced by a hand-painted signature with the date on one board on each side of the drive-through space. The signature on the southeast side says "JOHN W. ELY 1872"; the signature on the northwest side says "JOHN W. ELY 1874." The upper level was apparently added in 1874 when the second crib was built. The upper level contains about four large wooden bins for storing grain with an open work space between them. The corncrib is currently in a state of deterioration, with some of its siding missing and some of its lower structural members out of plumb or otherwise deteriorated. The corn crib reflects a transition toward raising maize (or Indian corn) on local farms, which was well underway by the 1870s. Maize became more important on local farms a decade or two later when sheep raising declined and was eclipsed by dairy and beef cattle.

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To the southeast of the house is the 1803 stone springhouse (photos #2-5). It is a gabled building on a banked site. The top of the gable end on the tallest side of the building has a date stone with the inscription: "THIS HOUSE WAS BUILT FOR ISAAC—JANE WHITE, 1803, BUILT BY WM BLAIR & SONS" (photo #4). Its lower floor has evidence of a trough. Some water still courses through the space, though the trough is no longer functional. In the upper level is a fireplace. The corner of the springhouse closest to the house has wood walls in the upper level (at the banked side of the building, where the second level is at grade), perhaps evidence of an earlier open porch. About a third of the upper level floor has rotted away at this end (photo #5), only one of several serious structural problems the building has recently developed. The wood details at the edge of the roof are rotted, leaving holes in the sheathing. The exterior stone walls are also out of plumb, and some interior sections of the stone work have collapsed, including part of the chimneybreast.

The barn (photos #7-10, 16, 52-54, 58) at the Hamilton-Ely Farmstead is a hybrid form, apparently the result of several changes as the farm evolved. About two-thirds of the current floor plan of the barn has a stone foundation and older wood framing, with pegged mortise and tenon joints. At the upper grade level, this area comprises a single room of about 34 feet by 34 feet. An unusual feature is a pair of very large beams just inside the barn door at the upper grade level, supporting the floor of the uppermost lofts, about nine feet above the floor of the barn's upper floor level. They are spaced only about six feet apart and run perpendicular to the barn door. They are much larger than what is required in the bents of the current barn design, and they appear to have been part of the framing of the older barn design, consolidated into the framework of the unchanged section when the northern section of the barn was removed. Relocating these framing members at 90 degrees to their earlier orientation resulted in the main room of the barn being square. In the barn's lower level, inside the stone walled section, there are wooden stalls with wooden feeding racks running in a row from southwest to northeast. Above these, in the main upper grade level of the barn are granary boxes with chutes leading down toward the troughs. The top level of the older part of the barn is an upper hayloft, a full third floor in this section of the building, apparently added when the barn was rebuilt, as it is constructed entirely of sawn lumber. At the northwest end of the barn, a new bay was added around 1930. Its walls begin with cinderblock in the banked areas at the bottom, and then have balloon-framed sawn lumber extending to the roof. Above the upper grade floor level of this newer part of the barn, the space is open to the roof. A track and pulley system is in place in this bay, at the under side

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of the roof ridge. It provided a mechanism for lifting hay into the upper hay lofts in the third level of the older section. In the basement level of this newer section of the barn is a row of metal pipe milking stalls. The row of milking stalls are oriented perpendicular to the wood stalls in the older section. The floor around the milking stalls is concrete, with a concrete manure trough. At the northeast corner of the barn, a small one-story cinderblock milk house was added about 1940 (photo #54).

The Hamilton-Ely Farmstead retains integrity especially in the architectural aspects of the five resources that comprise it. The house not only retains the essential elements of its 1830s Greek Revival style architecture, but the integrity is further enhanced by the fact that almost no modern amenities were ever added. The fact that modernization was avoided at this property throughout most of the twentieth century has resulted in the retention of almost all the house's original clay-and-lime-based plaster, interior trim, hardware, wood sash windows, gas light fixtures, and fireplaces. The drive-through corn crib appears to remain as it was when it was built in the 1870s. The springhouse remains unchanged except for deterioration and loss of some framing members and some interior stone work due to moisture problems. The Washhouse had only minor changes to the first story after about 1910, and these appear to be the result of placing plumbing fixtures in it rather than in the house. The changes to the barn, such as the addition of the milk house and the installation of a concrete floor with stanchions and a manure trough, reflect the property's evolution as an active farm within the Period of Significance. While some other agricultural buildings have been lost, such as a double-crib log barn that once stood outside the nominated area and a sheep barn that once stood near the springhouse (photo #58), the loss of these components does not diminish the integrity of the property as a collection of resources on a long-term agricultural site with significant architectural components reflecting distinctive styles, folk types, and craftsmanship. While the two additional barns, as documented in a photograph from the 1880s (photo #58), represented important aspects of nineteenth century farming here, their loss was part of the transformation of the farm, as an agricultural resource within the Period of Significance, from an emphasis on sheep and grain to cattle and dairy farming.

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8. Statement of Significance

The Hamilton-Ely Farmstead is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for architecture, as a good example of Late Federal style/Early Greek Revival style construction in Greene County, and under Criterion A for agriculture, as the center of one of Greene County's successful farms. The house at the core of the farmstead has fine detailing in a design that is unusually sophisticated for an out-of-the-way farmhouse. In its architectural refinement, it reflects one of the first periods of economic prosperity as the Washington-Greene County/Greater Monongahela Valley agricultural region matured. The property is also significant agriculturally as the domestic center of a prosperous farm established at an early date. The farm had developed into a successful livestock farm by the time of the house's construction in the 1830s, an early date in the history of stockraising in this area. The Period of Significance begins in 1803, when the springhouse was built, the oldest extant resource in the nominated area. The springhouse served both an agricultural and domestic purpose, in the farm's nascent period, and may have served as a temporary residence when the present farmhouse was built ca.1835. The property continued to be a significant farm until about 1955, which is the end of the period of significance.

Though the farmstead centers on the house, it includes several other domestic or agricultural buildings typical of historic farmsteads in the region. The remainder of the land historically associated with the house, within and beyond the two-acre nominated area, consists of hay fields and some overgrown areas resulting from years of being inactive as a farm. The five buildings within the nominated area still reflect a variety of typical Greene farmstead activities, such as storing and processing of foods and housing of dairy cattle.

PROPERTY HISTORY

The tract where the Hamilton-Ely Farmstead is located was first settled by John White, a pioneer-era Greene County settler. White's son Isaac and Isaac's wife Jane had the stone springhouse built at the northeast corner of the nominated property in 1803. Their names and the date are elegantly engraved in a datestone in the springhouse's gable end (photo #4). The stone is about the size and shape of a sandstone grave marker of the same time period, but the engraving is

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unusually refined for the area, especially for a datestone on a building. Information handed-down orally and repeated in secondary sources suggests that the White family lived in the stone springhouse and that the Hamilton family (the subsequent owners) lived there as well, prior to the construction of the brick house. According to the secondary source material, the springhouse had a log addition at the time that the brick house was being built. However, the addition appears to have been removed by the time that the earliest extant photographs of the farm were taken about 1880 (photos #57 and #58).

The property was acquired around 1830 by John "Jack" Hamilton who built the brick house shortly afterward. Hamilton was a drover as well as a farmer and stockraiser. By about the time that the house was built, he had an established reputation as one of Greene County's leading dealers in farm animals, and as a result of his connections, he opened a tavern for drovers in the center of Waynesburg's business district. Hamilton's tavern, known as the "Hamilton House," became his central enterprise, and he consequently moved into town about 1840 and sold the farm.

The farm was purchased by George and Mary Warrick Ely who moved to the Whiteley Township farm from Washington County at the time of their marriage, about 1842. The property remained in the Ely family for over 100 years. George Ely was regarded as one of Greene County's leading stockraisers, according to biographical information published in the 1880s.¹ Although he did not build the house, his success is reflected in the fact that he was able to maintain the house and farm, so that it remained intact and in his family for over a century. At some point prior to 1893, Ely's son William C. Ely became the head of the household at the Hamilton-Ely House. However, William C. Ely died in 1893 at age 35.² George Ely was 76 at the time of his son's death, and his wife had died six years earlier. The property subsequently passed into the possession of William C. Ely's widow, Ida Hook Ely, perhaps upon the death of George Ely in 1898. The modifications to the front porch and installation of gas lighting were probably undertaken at some point between 1890 and 1910. Ida Ely continued farm operations for several decades.³ She in turn left the property to her daughter and husband, Lizzie and Norman Orndoff. The Orndoffs subsequently left the property to their son Harry Orndoff. In 1950, Harry Orndoff sold the farm to Claire and Evelyn Minor. Evelyn Minor lived at the house until her death in October 2003,⁴ and then left the property to her neighbor, Bob Morris. Morris sold the property to Judi and John Higgins, the present owners, in February 2004.⁵

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ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Hamilton-Ely House, at the center of the farmstead, is architecturally significant as a prototypical five-bay brick farmhouse, as well as for its refined wood, brick, and stone details. Although the basic form of the house and the pedimented two-story center-bay porch are usually considered indications of the Greek Revival style in nineteenth century houses in this region, the design of the elliptical-arched center entrances at the Hamilton-Ely House is more typical of the Federal era than of the Greek Revival style. The corner blocks with scrolled-cornered ornaments at the ends of the three-part lintels (photo #15) appear to be a feature found almost exclusively on Greek Revival style buildings built between 1835 and 1845, where they represent a distinctive touch, reminiscent of Federal era detailing, on buildings that are otherwise consistent with later Greek Revival examples.⁶

Within the confines of Greene County, the Hamilton-Ely House is one of the grander farmhouses among the hundreds of farmsteads nestled in rolling hills. Only a small portion of Greene County's farmhouses are this large or this imposing in architectural effect. Generally, the larger houses are found along the two or three wider valleys that come together at Waynesburg and in areas of gently-sloped terrain in the bowl-shaped farmsteads (such as this one) at the headwaters of small streams. By contrast, however, the county has many tiny farms in areas of steep terrain where there is very little tillable land, and consequently the farmhouses along many of the Greene County's back roads are often much smaller than the Hamilton-Ely House.

The Hamilton-Ely House makes a favorable comparison with a number of other 5-bay brick houses from the same era in this section of the county, just a few miles southeast of Waynesburg. Within a circle of a mile or two of the Hamilton-Ely House, there are at least a half dozen similar-sized five-bay brick houses in similar settings. Generally, each of these farmsteads occupies the head of a valley. An example is the house at the Thomas Kent Farm [NR1998], built in 1851, in neighboring Franklin Township. The Kent House is situated very similarly at the head of Laurel Run, banked into a gently rising hillside, with a grand set of steps leading up to the front door. It also has modest chimneys with very little overhang at the eaves, and it has a similar kitchen ell extending from the rear of the left half of the house, with remnants of a two story rear porch in the space created by the ell. However, the Kent House lacks the Federal-era exterior details. In place of the elliptical fanlights over the first and second story center bay openings, it has rectilinear tripartite units in the two openings, in the form of a window above

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and a doorway below. Additionally, there is no evidence of the Kent House ever having had a two-story front porch. Other mid-nineteenth century five-bay brick farmhouses near the Kent House include the Ingram (or Inghram) House and the Simpson House. Though similar in form and scale, the Ingram and Simpson houses also have all rectangular door and window openings like the Kent House. The facades of both houses have been changed, primarily by the addition of mid-to-late twentieth century materials in the porches. The exterior of the Ingram House has changed only in subtle ways, as typical porch forms evolved in the early twentieth century, compared to more radical changes at the Simpson House. The Simpson House has a modern wood deck extending across the across the façade to the sides of the original porch.

A closer comparison might be drawn to a second house built by a family named Ingram in the north central section of Greene County about 1840. Located on a ridge road just west of the village of Sycamore (between Ingram Hill Road and the former site of Hunter's Cave United Methodist Church), this five-bay house has very similar lintel details to those at the Hamilton-Ely House. Situated along a ridge road, the Ingram Hill House is situated in a relatively level section of a ridge of land that drops off behind the house.

Another place where the lintels with scrolled corner blocks were used is the John Brice Gordon House, a one-and-a-half story, all stone, high-style Greek Revival house on a ridge near the Hamilton-Ely House. The J.B. Gordon House is the only rural house in Greene County shown in Charles Morse Stotz's *The Early Architecture of Western Pennsylvania*.⁷ Stotz had high regard for the J.B. Gordon House, writing about it in an article he published in 1929.⁸ Though the Gordon House has lintels with the same corner blocks, the center block found in each lintel at the Hamilton-Ely House is absent. Another similarity between the Hamilton-Ely House and the J.B. Gordon House is in the tooling of the stone surfaces. Each ashlar block in both houses (i.e., the basement façade stone work at the Hamilton-Ely House and all the exterior wall surfaces at the Gordon House) has been sawn to a large, rectangular unit, then tooled in a pattern which Stotz calls "scabbled and drafted work" (the quotation marks are his; see Stotz, page 145), a pattern that is similar to vermiculation. The similarity in stone work between the Hamilton-Ely House, the Ingram Hill House near Sycamore, and the J.B. Gordon House may indicate that the same stone cutter was used.

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A couple of buildings on High Street in the Waynesburg Historic District [NR1984] have this style of lintel, showing that the detail was used in town settings as well as farm houses. In one example, at 114 High Street, the center block ornament over a wide doorway has the date 1849. The other example, at 166 High Street, has a flower pattern at the center of the lintel of the widest doorway, but the building's remaining lintels match those at the Hamilton-Ely House. While the similarity between the Greene County examples supports the possibility that a local stonecutter, perhaps working from Waynesburg, produced most or all of the lintels of this style found in Greene County, the same detail is also found in buildings from the 1830s and 1840s in neighboring counties. Stone lintels with corner blocks are found in several locations in both Washington and Allegheny Counties.⁹

The use of an elliptical fanlight over a tripartite doorway (photos #14, 18, 29) is almost as rare in southwestern Pennsylvania as the ornamented stone lintels over the windows. In Greene County, elliptical fanlights are found in only a few buildings, primarily on High Street in Waynesburg. Farmhouse examples are found in a few locations in neighboring Washington County, such as the James Stewart House built in 1834 in Chartiers Township.¹⁰ The Jacob and Isabel Ulery House, built in 1838 in the village of Zollarsville (West Bethlehem Township), Washington County, has a fanlight with an ornamental sunburst detail consisting of sun-ray-shaped wood pieces that extend between the muntins, identical to the detailing found in the fanlight at the Hamilton-Ely House.¹¹ A prominent fanlight was used above the entrance to West Alexander Presbyterian Church, built in 1840 [West Alexander Historic District, NR 1985].

The best example, however, of an architecturally comparable house of the era in the Washington/Greene County region is the William M. Quail House on Rt. 19 in North Strabane Township, Washington County, built in 1837.¹² The Quail House has a two-story porch sheltering only the center bay. It is the same scale and form as the porch seen in nineteenth century photographs of the Hamilton-Ely House. It has an elliptical fanlight over a tripartite doorway opening onto each level of the porch, as well as an ell-plan with the ell projecting from the left side. It is also sited on a similar shelf of land to the side of a valley, though the porch lacks the grand set of stairs because the land immediately in front of house is more level than the Hamilton-Ely site. Unlike the Hamilton-Ely House, the Quail House has smoothly-dressed, plain lintels. Its roofline, on the other hand, is more sophisticated, with bridged chimneys and a large attic window in each gable end (apparently the result of a two-room-deep floor plan in the lower levels).

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Both the Quail House and the Hamilton-Ely House have Flemish bond facades, another feature that is common in the more sophisticated buildings in the region built in the 1830s and 1840s. Flemish bond is more common, though, in highly visible sites along early highways in the region. The brickwork at the Hamilton-Ely House is further distinguished by the fact that Flemish bond was used on two elevations, the long southwest elevation as well as the facade.

AGRICULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Throughout the nineteenth century, agriculture was the most important economic activity in Greene County. As late as 1890, almost 90 percent of Greene County's residents lived on farms, and 95 percent of Greene County's total land area was occupied by active farms.¹³ Generally, the farms in Greene County were slightly smaller and more hilly than those of neighboring Pennsylvania counties. As was the case throughout Western Pennsylvania, farms in Greene County usually began as tracts of about 360 acres, and were divided among family members, until the average size was about 120 acres (or smaller). Greene County's hilly, well-drained terrain makes it excellent for sheep farming, but less suitable for many other farming specialties.

Agriculture in the county and surrounding region evolved from a focus on grain farming to livestock raising.¹⁴ In the early nineteenth century, farms in the Greater Monongahela Valley, and particularly in Washington and Greene Counties, raised wheat and other grains as their primary cash crop. Sheep raising was an outgrowth of wheat farming. As quality sheep became available, they were introduced on the farms to be grazed in rotation with the wheat, because their droppings provided nutrients needed between crops of wheat. The fields were placed in a rotation on most farms, in a cycle of wheat, sheep pasturing, and either clover or timothy grass.

Greene and Washington Counties became national leaders in sheep raising by the mid 1830s. Throughout the nineteenth century (from about 1836 to about 1880), Washington and Greene Counties were the leading counties in the nation in numbers of sheep. They have continued to be among the three strongest counties in the state in numbers of sheep down to the present. Sheep farming became the leading specialty in the two county area after a brief period of intense speculation in Spanish Merinos on farms in several sections of the United States during and after the War of 1812. Initially there was an expectation that the primary market would be for wool, as many small woolen mills were built in the area during the Embargo of 1807 and the War of 1812. The market, however, fluctuated wildly, and eventually most of the woolen mills failed.¹⁵

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Meanwhile, other wool-quality sheep were introduced in various years, including Saxony, Dorsets, and Delaines (a variety of Merinos). As sheep raising declined in some other areas of the country, conservative farmers in Greene and Washington Counties maintained their large flocks. By about 1850, the area became known as a place for drovers to purchase ewes as they were driving animals west to supply the needs of newly-established Midwestern and Western farms.

The terrain that made the area ideal for sheep farming extended across Greene and Washington Counties and into adjoining areas of neighboring counties, making this the core area of a larger unified agricultural region. The National Road, and other early turnpikes passing through Washington County made the area into an ideal route for droving animals, and the feeder roads leading into Greene County and remote areas of Washington County led many of the area's farms to specialize in stockraising. Greater signs of wealth were seen in the architecture of farms and villages closer to the main roads in the two-county region, although many of the more isolated farms also show signs of financial successful as stock farms or breeding farms. However, by the late 1880s, with the development of railroad networks, the drovers' era ended. In the same period, many sections of southwestern Pennsylvania became intensely urbanized, as industrial plants and new communities were built. The demand for milk and other dairy products increased with the growth in the region's population, and many of the region's farms were converted to dairies.

Agricultural significance at the Hamilton-Ely Farmstead is reflected in three generations of buildings typically found on local farmsteads. The springhouse represents settlement and subsistence level farming at the end of the frontier era, while the older parts of the barn and house represent Greene County's nineteenth century wheat and sheep farming era. The washhouse and corncrib are typical outbuildings added to many local farms toward the end of the sheep raising era, as the region was transitioning back into mixed farming and moving toward dairy. The barn, in its current configuration, is a modest dairy barn, with a milking parlor and milk house, typical of the kinds of modifications made to local barns as dairy farming became predominant in the region for about a half century beginning about 1890. These three stages of agricultural development reflect what was happening generally on farms in Greene County and the surrounding region between 1803 and 1955, the property's Period of Significance.

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The oldest building on the Hamilton-Ely Farmstead, the 1803 springhouse, represents the last years of the frontier era. It is older than the main house, as is often the case on older farms in the region, and thus it supports the commonly-held idea that the springhouses were used as temporary residences while the larger houses were being built. Early springhouses had a variety of uses on pioneer farmsteads and appear to have been referred to as "kitchens" in the some of the earliest documents.¹⁶

A second generation of farmstead activities is reflected in the three remaining outbuildings: the barn, the washhouse, and the drive-through corncrib. However, the barn and washhouse also reflect a more recent generation of modifications. The barn, as seen in late nineteenth century photographs (photo #58), was originally oriented so that the gable roof ran north-south, perpendicular to the current orientation. Its orientation may have been dictated by the direction of prevailing winds (coming up the Dyers Fork Valley) in order to facilitate threshing and winnowing in the era before these activities were mechanized. The older version of the barn had at least one stone gable end, and there was a substantial overhanging straw shed, attached at some point to the east side of the barn. Adding the straw shed also created the shelter of a forebay, although the space below it in this case was very low. This suggests that processing grain and straw grew in importance or volume on the farm after the original stone enclosure was constructed, perhaps as the livestock grew in number. There were also a couple of other barns on the farm. A second barn-like building is seen in nineteenth century photographs (photo #58) just below the springhouse. In form, it appears to be a typical late-nineteenth century sheep barn, as is often found on sheep farms in this region. A third barn also existed (as shown in nineteenth century photographs) high on an elevated field several hundred feet behind the house (photo #58). It appears to have been a fully developed two-pen log barn on a relatively level site, and it was probably the oldest of the three. It was not uncommon for farms in Greene and Washington Counties, where there were very high numbers of sheep, to maintain three or more barns, to keep different kinds of sheep segregated for breeding purposes and protection of the wool.

The washhouse appears to have been added in the 1870s, about the same time as the drive-through corncrib (photo #23). Their location appears, in old photographs, to be closely related to the fence lines that defined both the domestic yard of the house and a large square garden once located southeast of the house. Locating the washhouse close to the kitchen was important, especially since all the household's washing functions were carried out there. The washhouse's

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vertical boxcar siding is a typical treatment for small outbuildings on farms in the area in the 1870s. The corn crib was apparently built in two stages, the lower crib being built in 1872 and the upper crib and second story added in 1874.¹⁷

George Ely sustained the livestock focus that the farm had when Jack Hamilton, a well-known local drover and stock farmer, built the brick house. However, in 1850 (the first census taken after Ely bought the property, and the first agricultural census to include the farm),¹⁸ Ely had an average-sized flock of 60 sheep, plus 18 swine, 3 milch cows, two oxen, and 6 other cattle. These were average livestock numbers for Whiteley Township in 1850, a township where all but two farms had at least a few sheep. At the time, he had a total of 178 acres of land. By the 1850s, a large percentage of the farm land across the region had been cleared. Pioneer-era farms established in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries had been started by clearing an acre or two a year, and subdividing larger tracts of wooded land among sons, until by the 1850s, most farms contained about 120 acres, of which more than half was usually cleared. By 1880, the acreage of the region's successful farms was almost all cleared. Of George Ely's total acreage in 1850, only 100 acres were clear, but this was a better ratio of cleared to wooded land than most of his Whiteley Township neighbors had to this point. Between the 1850s and 1870s, the number of sheep on a typical sheep farm grew until it reached about one sheep per acre, the ratio of acreage to sheep it took to raise the hay and crops needed to maintain the animals and simultaneously support other farm functions.¹⁹ By 1870, however, Ely's property had grown to 296 acres, of which 200 acres were cleared. These 200 acres were supporting a flock of 200 sheep. By the 1870s, this ratio was typical of most of the region's serious sheep farms. However, at this point in time, only a few successful farms had a total acreage this large. The increasing acreage was a sign that the family's flocks were growing in number beyond the capacity of the earlier tract. The 1880 statistics for the farm show considerable growth in just a decade. Though the total acreage remained the same, 25 more acres had been cleared and the flock had apparently grown phenomenally. While the 1880 census does not show the number of sheep, it indicates that Ely had clipped 370 fleeces in his spring clip, the second largest number of any farm in the township, and far above the average. The Ely farm was also tied with two other farms for the largest number of lambs dropped in the township in 1880. At the same time, it was producing at least average or above-average quantities of other farm products, including butter, eggs, and Irish potatoes.

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The untimely death of William C. Ely in 1893 may represent a major setback in the history of the property. Such a tragedy may also have been one of the reasons that the Ely family was slow in adding modern amenities. However, Ida Hook Ely (William's widow) did continue to operate the farm through the 1920s. The 1924 Pennsylvania Agricultural Census shows that the Ely family still had a substantial flock of 111 sheep on 117 acres of land.³⁰ They also had 120 hens and pullets, 14 head of cattle, 2 dairy cows, and 2 horses. Twenty acres were planted in cereal grains, including wheat, corn, and oats. The farm had a somewhat modest orchard of 25 bearing age apple trees and 6 peach trees at this point. Only 20 acres were exclusively used to raise hay. The six other family members living on the farm at this time may have been the most important factor in maintaining all the farm activity. The Ely farm was one of only seven farms (among about 100) in Whiteley Township to boast of two or more automobiles in 1924. Although the 1927 statistics for the Ely farm are similar to those gathered in 1924, the following differences are apparent: the flock of sheep had grown to 150 by that time, the total number of chickens had decreased to 105, cereal grains were no longer being planted (except for seven acres of corn), and the orchard had grown by five trees. The only modern amenity, besides the two automobiles, that shows up on the farm in the 1927 data is a telephone.

The third era in the farm's evolution, as detailed in the 1924 and 1927 statistics, is reflected in the farm's various buildings. In the era between about 1900 and 1955, agricultural practices changed considerably on the Hamilton-Ely Farm, and as they did across Greene County and the rest of the nation. The changes are reflected in the way the buildings were modified: major modifications, for instance, were made to the main barn to make it suitable for dairy cattle. Some modern bathroom fixtures were added to the washhouse about the same time. The log barn and sheep barn probably disappeared at some point early in this era. At least some, if not all, of the modifications to the main barn are indicative of a transition to dairy farming, part of a trend that transformed most of the sheep farms and general farms in the Washington-Greene County Agricultural area between about 1890 and about 1920. The changes were made either before or shortly after the 1920s when farm census information was gathered. However, the buildings represent a wider range of activities than the statistical data does, as the agricultural procedures shifted here. Although dairy cattle do not appear to be a major emphasis of this farm in the 1920s data, the barn clearly shows that at some point prior to 1950 at least a half dozen cows were being milked here when the milking stalls were installed and the milk house was built. The degree to which the barn was changed, together with the absence of other kinds of built-in equipment, suggests that dairy cattle were important to the farm, by at least the 1940s.

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The exact reason for changing the orientation of the barn so radically is not known, but some of the logic is clearly apparent in the way the new barn was designed. In the older configuration (photo #58), the orientation may have been based mostly on capturing wind for winnowing. In that era, the farm may not have had many large animals. The barn was banked so that the ridge pole of the roof ran east-west, perpendicular to the contour of the land, an unusual way to site a barn, but not unknown in this area.²¹ The siting left about one third of the barn without an excavated foundation, and when the straw shed was added, creating a forebay, the headroom of the space beneath it was extremely low. Such a layout was not problematic for housing sheep, but it presented problems if a number of dairy cattle were to be kept and milked at the barn. When the barn was rebuilt, the haymow area over the unexcavated northern part of the banked site was removed, and an addition was made to the west, where the grade was low enough to have a milking parlor in the lower level. In the older part of the barn, the lower level was fitted out with wood stalls for animals, and the new section was eventually fitted out with a concrete floor with a manure trough and pipe stanchions for milking. The heavy pegged-timber barn bents, from the northern bay of the barn that was removed, were apparently turned 180 degrees and re-used in re-framing the older section, after the stone gable ends were removed. This resulted in the main room of the upper level of the barn being 34 feet square. While this section of the barn has disproportionately large timbers as a result of consolidating bents from a larger area, lighter sawn timber was used in the section added to the west side and in a hayloft added above the square room, as well as in the entire roof structure. The newly-configured barn was roofed-over with ridge pole oriented north-south, creating a unified form (photos #1, 7-10, 16, 52-54) that incorporates the original section (now 34 feet square), the additional loft space created over the original section, and the western extension. Eventually, a small, one story, concrete block milk house was added at the northeast corner of the barn (photo #54).

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END NOTES

1. *Commemorative Biographical Record of Washington County, Pennsylvania*. J.H. Beers & Co., Chicago, 1893, pg. 213
2. The information on birth and death dates and family relationships for the Ely family comes primarily from Candice Lynn Buchanan, certified genealogist, of Memory Medallion, 61 Richhill Street, Waynesburg. Ms. Buchanan has provided a great deal of genealogical data used in evaluating this property. Her material is derived in part from census data and grave stone inscriptions, as well as local history sources and family records. ("Memory Medallion" is a Waynesburg-based company that researches the genealogy of families and compiles computer files that are placed in an electronic device which is then embedded in grave markers at cemeteries at the request and expense of family markers. Since it was created several years ago, this unique company has had the opportunity to research and compile data on many families that have lived in Greene County over the past two centuries.)
3. Ida Ely is listed as owner/operator of this farm in both the 1924 and 1927 United State Department of Agriculture Farm Censuses.
4. See Santello, Angie, "Greene County Farmhouse Auctioned Off," *Uniontown Herald Standard*, 8 February 2004; and Yates, Jennifer C., "Former History Teacher Leaves 1800s House at It was Built" (Associated Press Article, posted 5 February 2004).
5. Greene County Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Record Book 634, page 161.
6. This detail (or very similar ones) is found in a few examples in standard textbooks on American architectural styles (for instance, see the illustration of "Shamrock" plantation house, built 1851, in Vicksburg Mississippi, in Rifkind, Carole, *A Field Guide to American Architecture*, New York: Plume Books, 1980, page 44). The detail is found in scattered examples in Manhattan, and in Alexandria, Virginia and other cities with prominent buildings from the 1830s-ca.1850. I.T. Frary gives detailed analysis to some similar lintels on a house of unknown date in McConnellsville, Ohio, attributing the motif used there directly to the Adams Brothers (see Frary, I.T., *Early Homes of Ohio*, Richmond, Virginia: Garrett and Massey, Inc., 1936, pages 133-137). Virginia and Lee McAlester categorize lintels of this type as "three-part top(s)" and identify them as a typical Greek Revival feature (see McAlester, Virginia and Lee, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Knopf, 1988, page 181; note that the McAlester illustration shows the center block slightly taller than the rest of the lintel, a variation also found in Rifkind's illustration of Shamrock plantation, but not found in Washington and Greene Counties). Examples located in Western Pennsylvania are mostly from the 1830s.
7. See Stotz, Charles Morse, *The Early Architecture of Western Pennsylvania*, Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1936, pages 108, 114-118, 145, and 160.
8. The J.B. Gordon House figures prominently, for instance in Stotz's 1929 travelogue piece, entitled "What Price Brownsville," for *The Charette*, Pittsburgh's architecture journal (Robert W. Schmertz, editor, *The Charette*. Pittsburgh: The Pittsburgh Architectural Club, Vol.IX, No.8, October 1929). Though Stotz's article is presumably about the town of Brownsville, ten miles north of the northeastern corner of Greene County, the piece chronicles an actual driving tour wherein he took Robert Schmertz, editor of *The Charette*, from Pittsburgh to Brownsville in an automobile. They take lengthy side trips, at least twenty miles out of the way, to visit the Gordon House and several other interesting examples of the region's early architecture. The implication is that each of these buildings is of such significance to justify a twenty-mile side trip.
9. The Washington County examples are scattered in several parts of the county. A rural example with similarly-detailed lintels is the Matthew Morrow House on Haney Road in Canton Township (see *Preserving Our Past*, page 53). However, several buildings that have lintels with carved cornerblocks are in the setting of small towns in Washington County. West Middletown [NR1985] (see *Preserving Our Past*, page 183) has several examples among its 1840s brick row buildings. In Taylorstown [NR1985], the first house in the historic district, coming into the town from the National Road has lintels with corner blocks (see *Preserving Our Past*, page 188). Known as the Dickey House, it was believed to have been built around 1820. However, in the Washington County examples cited above, the detail found in the carved cornerblocks is a bull's-eye rosette rather than a scroll-cornered square, and none of the above examples has the third block at the center of the lintel. An example that is more similar

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END NOTES (continued)

to the lintel detail found at the building at the corner of East Main Street and North Liberty Road in West Alexander [NR1985]. The West Alexander building is one of several brick buildings built after an 1831 fire destroyed a large block of wooden buildings at the center of the town. At the opposite side of Washington County, the 1830s section of the Yohe Building at Fourth Street and West Main Street in Monongahela City also has this style of lintels.

There are a few examples of stone lintels with corner blocks from the 1830s and 1840s in Allegheny County. For instance, the Isaac Lightner House [NR1977] (see Stotz, *Early Architecture...*, pages 120-122) in Glenshaw has the scrolled-cornered squares in the cornerblocks. The Lightner House has an example of the third block with the similar ornamentation at the center of the lintel, but in the lintel of the main entrance door. The remaining lintels at the Lightner House have cornerblocks only.

10. Washington County History and Landmarks Foundation. *Preserving Our Past, Landmark Architecture of Washington County, Pa.* Marceline, Missouri: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1975, page 89.

11. *Preserving Our Past...*, page 109.

12. *Preserving our Past...*, pages 98-99, and Stotz, *Early Architecture...*, pages 45 and 88.

13. Smith, G. Wayne. *History of Greene County, Pennsylvania*. Morgantown, West Virginia: Morgantown Printing and Binding, 1996, page 92.

14. See Beach, Richard, Two Hundred Years of Sheep Raising in the Upper Ohio Area, Washington, Pa.: Washington County Commissioners, 1981, pages 12-14.

15. Between 1809 and 1860, several ambitious projects were launched in the region to establish woolen mills. The earliest examples were planned in new villages laid out around water-powered or steam-powered factory complexes capitalized by the more successful local farmers. The earliest example of this pattern was at Clarksville, an industrial village built for four or five water-powered industries, including a woolen mill that was large for the era, in northeastern Greene County. The new town and its manufacturing company were charted together in 1809. This early group of new mills appears to have inspired the first generation of investment in wool-quality sheep. However, most of the mills failed for the same reason they were created: speculation about the effects of the Embargo Act of 1807 and the War of 1812 led to overly-ambitious investment, followed by a calmer period in which importation patterns were re-established resulting in the bottom falling out of the local market. Later mills were built in Monongahela City, Connellsville, and other mid-sized established towns in the region, but in general, the only mill that was a great success was the one at Steubenville, Ohio. The success of the Steubenville mill led to investment in breeding stock in several counties in southeastern Ohio, as well as the West Virginia Panhandle; ultimately Steubenville was the focal point and epicenter of a wool-raising region comprising ten or fifteen counties. However, none of the other counties had as many sheep as Washington County or Greene County at any point in the wool-raising era.

16. There are frequent references to "kitchens" in the United States Direct Tax of 1798 (commonly called the "Glass Tax" or "Window Tax"). The buildings called kitchens in the 1798 tax are usually one-room buildings, apparently completely detached from the main residence, and frequently built of stone even when the residence is log. This description and the dimensions given appear to be describing the building type that eventually came to be known as the springhouse on most local farms.

17. The corn crib contains has the name "John W. Ely" crudely painted in black paint on one board on each side of the center pass-through. The painted inscription on the right side is in cruder handwriting and bears the dates "1872," while the one on the left bears the date "1874." It was common to build a second corn crib parallel to an older one and to build a second story loft bridging the two together, so that a space was left in the middle to place tractors. However, the painted inscription offers a rare documentation of the sequence. The second story, in this case, contains several large, fairly well constructed grain bins with trap doors.

18. The 1850 census contains the earliest uniform tabulations available for agricultural statistics throughout most of the area. In the case of this farm, the census records available correspond closely to Ely's purchase, and provide an excellent overview of how the farm evolved over several decades. See the *Agricultural Schedules* from the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 Pennsylvania Decennial censuses, from the United States Census Bureau.

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END NOTES (continued)

19. The average of one sheep per acre on many of the county's sheep farms is based on an observation by the author of this nomination in perusing several statistical compilations that include figures for both acreage and sheep, such as the farm directory, enumerating sheep and acreage on hundreds of farms, in Caldwell's Atlas of Washington County (1876). That the one-sheep-per-acre relationship was on the minds of local farmers is seen in the fact that a calculation by Arthur R. Jenner Fust of Montreal was quoted in John M. McDowell, Esq.'s "Address on Agriculture" in *The Centennial Celebration of the Organization of Washington County, Pennsylvania. Proceedings and Addresses*, 1881, page 67. Fust's calculation points out that one sheep per acre grazing on land to be later planted in wheat provides an ideal fertilizer for the wheat and thus greatly increases the crop productivity of the land in general. McDowell pointed out that Washington County was estimated to have more than one sheep per acre (total county flock to total county acreage at that time), but that point in time (1881) was probably the very peak of sheep production before the arrival of most of the county's mining towns and specialized dairy farms, at which time, a large percentage of sheep raised locally were sold. The sheep raising industry declined rapidly in a period of adjustment within a few years, after 1880.

20. *United States Department of Agriculture Farm Censuses, Division of Crop Reporting*, Whiteley Township, Greene County. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania State Archives, 1924.

21. A similar example of a banked barn banked in this orientation is found at the ca. 1880 barn at the Colver-Rogers Farmstead [NR 2003], in nearby Jefferson Township, Greene County. A second barn on the property, but built using the prototypical form of a Pennsylvania bank barn/threshing barn, the Colver-Rogers barn was oriented perpendicular to the slope of the land, so that it is entered from a gable end, but has the typical large doors at either end of the threshing floor—in this case, they are both side doors, and both are well above grade. The Colver-Rogers barn also has a low forebay, along one side, with low enough head room that it would have only been useful for sheltering sheep. Over time, it was closed in with wire and fencing, to make semi-enclosed sheep fold. Interestingly, however, while the ridge of the main gable roof of a Pennsylvania barn almost always runs parallel to the contour lines of the site, the European precedents often cited for such barns, especially in Switzerland, were always turned so that the gable roof was oriented perpendicular to the contour lines. In many other ways, though, the Colver-Rogers barn and the Hamilton-Ealy barn (in its earlier form) were clearly Pennsylvania barns in all other details, and were built as a variation on that barn type, thus not directly linked to eighteenth century European prototypes.

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Section Number 10

Page 1

Description:

The boundary is shown on the enclosed site plan, labeled "Sketch of Buildings," at a scale of one inch equals 60'.

Justification:

The nominated property consists of the architectural resources of the nominated property and their immediate setting.

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Section PHOTO LIST Page 1

PHOTO LIST

Information for numbers 1-5 is the same for all photographs:

1. Hamilton-Ely Farmstead
2. Whiteley Township, Greene County, Pennsylvania
3. Terry A. Necciai, RA
4. March 2004
5. Negative Location: Offices of
John Milner Associates, Inc., Alexandria Office
5250 Cherokee Avenue, Suite 300
Alexandria, Virginia 22312

| NUMBER | DESCRIPTION | DIRECTION |
|--------|--|-----------|
| No. 1 | Barn (left), Main House, & stone Spring House (right), w/Dyers Fork in foreground | N |
| No. 2 | View of stone Spring House and Dyers Fork from access road | N |
| No. 3 | Southeast (gable end) and Southwest Elevations of Spring House (note wood section) | N |
| No. 4 | Datestone in gable end at Spring House; Inscription reads: THIS/HOUSE WAS/BUILT FOR/ISAAC—JANE WHITE 1803/BUILT BY WM BLAIR/AND SONS | NW |
| No. 5 | View into the Spring House, at rotting away floor joists, looking into both levels | E |
| No. 6 | View toward southeast edge of property, with corner of Main House Porch and Spring House, with Dyers Fork at edge of wooded area (wooded area is outside boundary) | E |
| No. 7 | View of rear of Main House and Barn from field, from about 200 feet behind the house | SE |
| No. 8 | View of lower side and gable end of Barn | NW |
| No. 9 | View along Dyers Fork past Barn toward neighboring farm house | NW |
| No. 10 | View down driveway from Main House past Barn and Dyers Fork | SE |
| No. 11 | Façade of Main House from field in front | NW |
| No. 12 | Porch and façade of Main House from south corner; note Flemish bond on two walls | N |
| No. 13 | View onto porch from SW end; note basement door under porch, lattice, stone work | NE |
| No. 14 | Detail of main entrance door | NW |
| No. 15 | Detail of main entrance door and windows from porch; note ornamental lintels | W |
| No. 16 | View toward Barn from second floor porch of Main House | S |
| No. 17 | View toward Spring House from second floor porch of Main House | E |
| No. 18 | Detail of second story center door from second story porch at main House | N |
| No. 19 | Detail of ghosting at side of second story center door | N |
| No. 20 | View under porch past tooled stone to rubble section in area hidden by original porch | NE |
| No. 21 | Detail of tooled ashlar blocks at southern corner of exposed area of basement | N |

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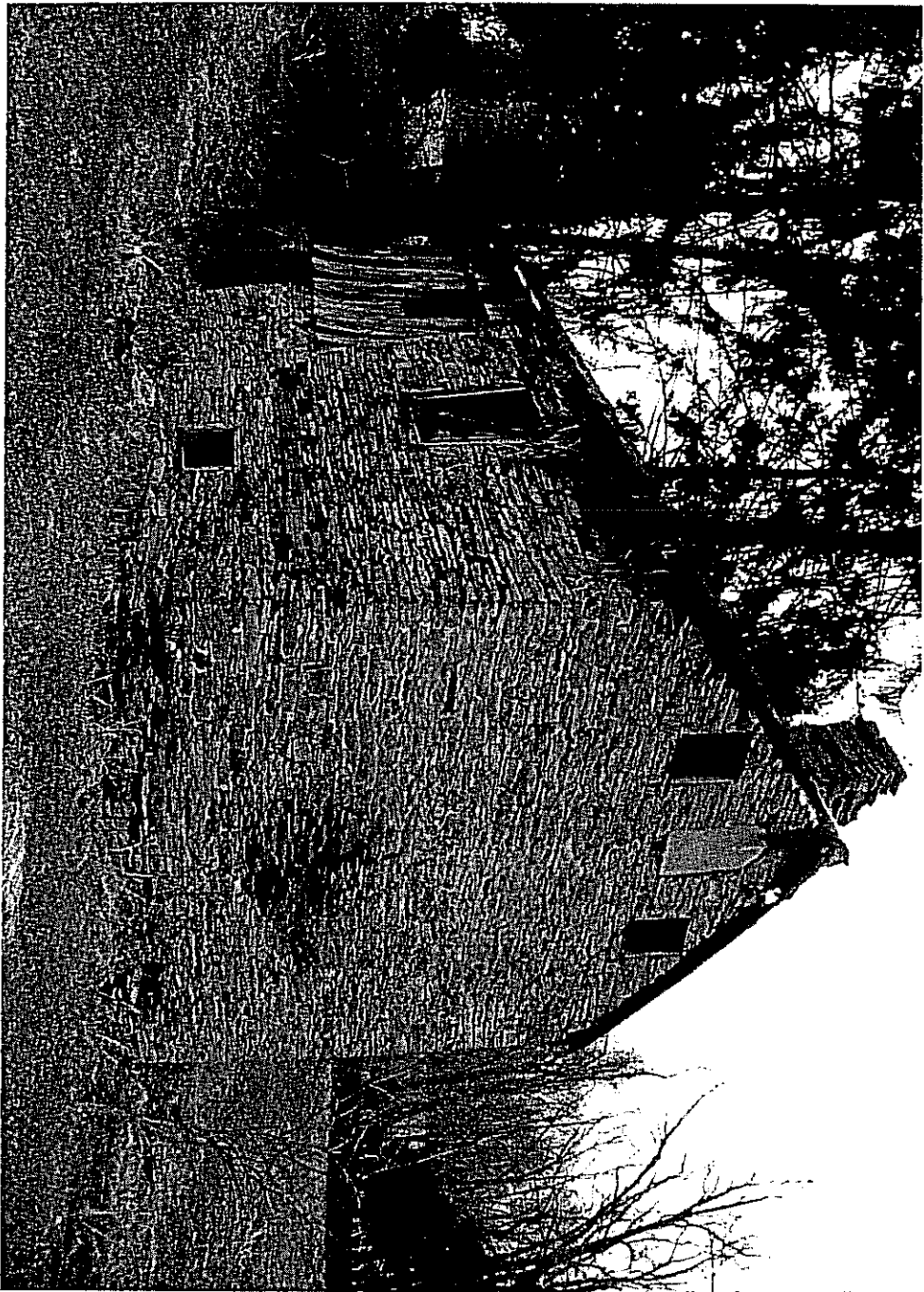
Hamilton-Ely Farmstead
Greene County, Pennsylvania

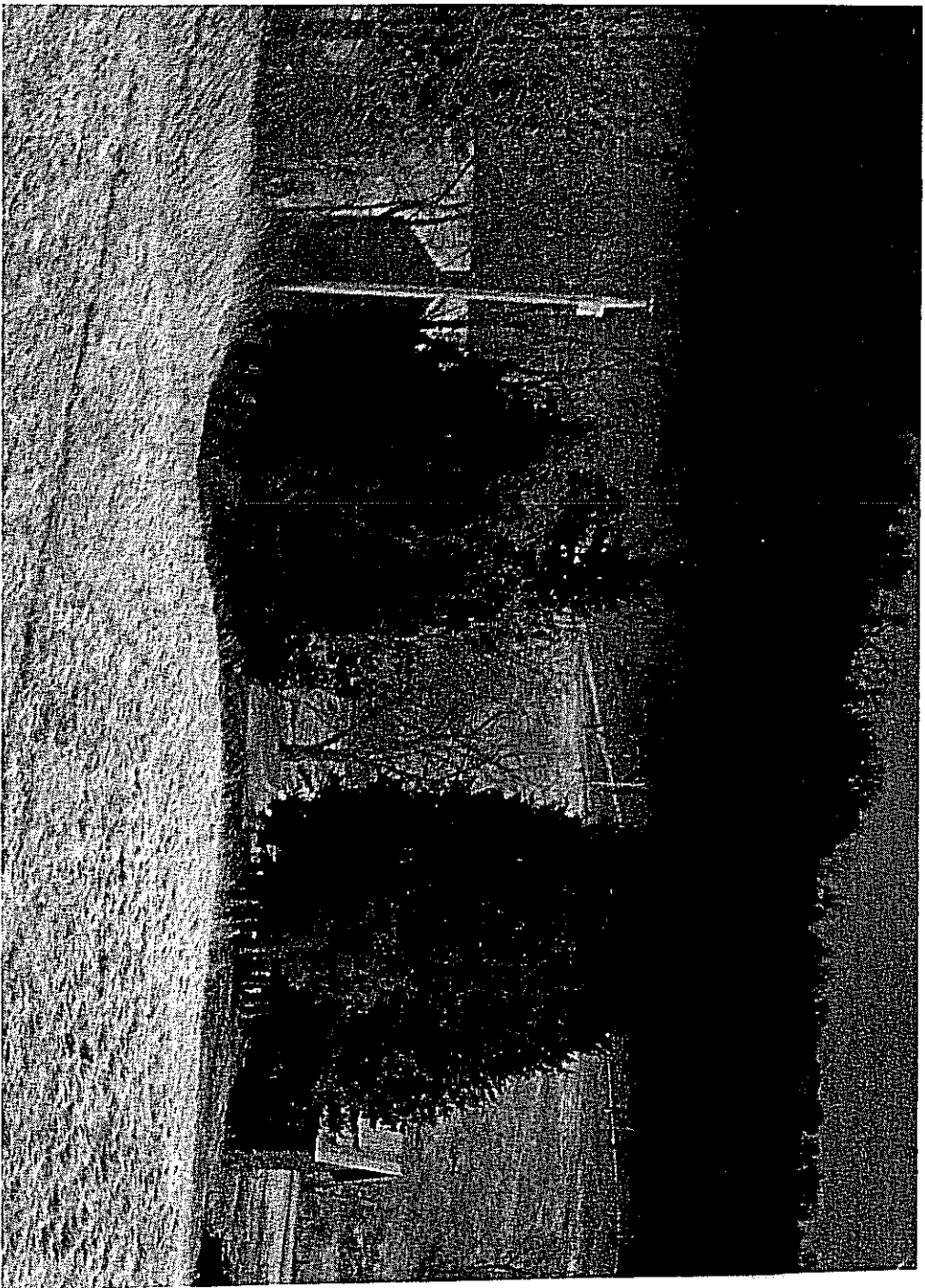
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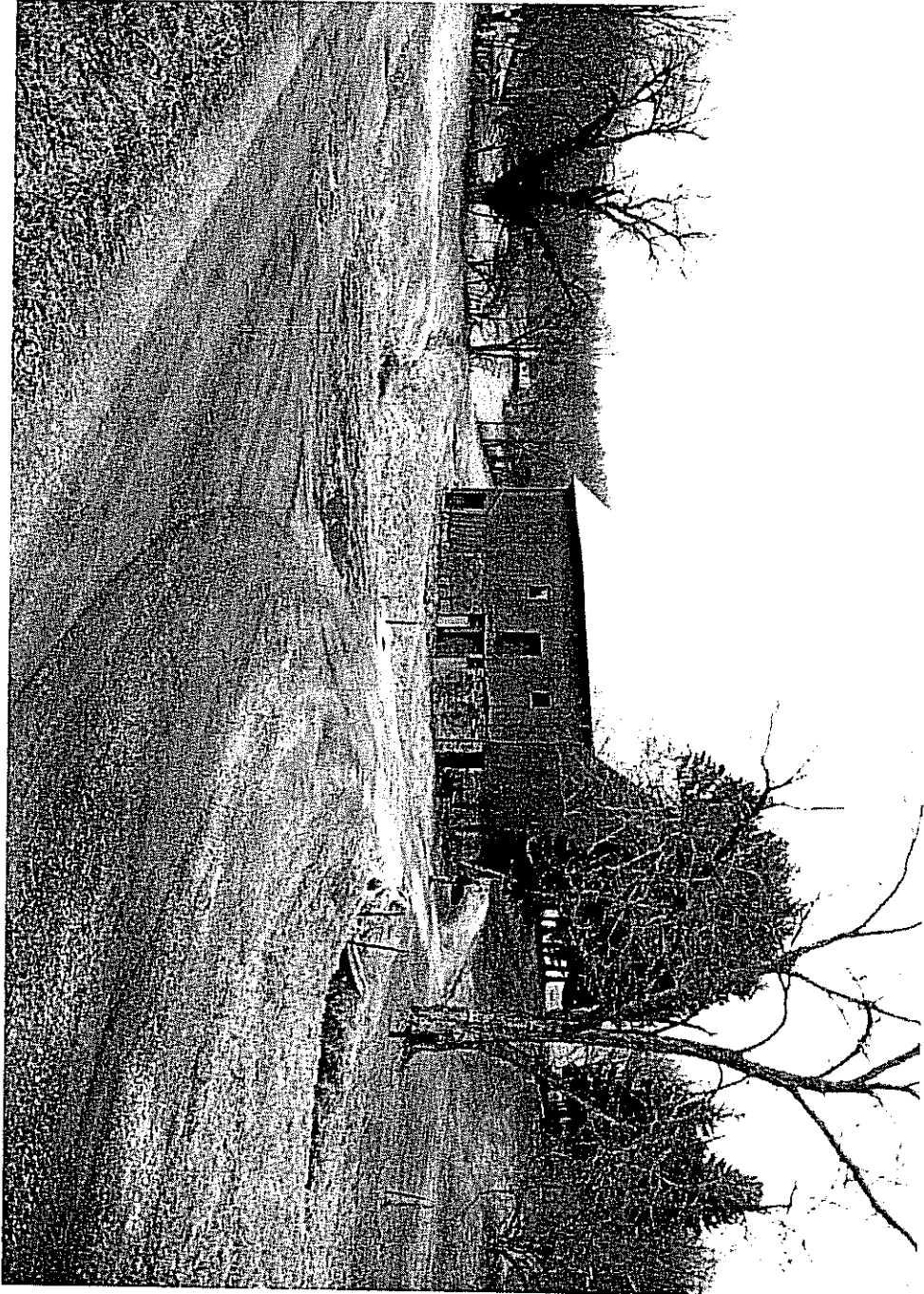
| NUMBER | DESCRIPTION | DIRECTION |
|--------|---|-----------|
| No. 22 | View of southwest and northwest elevations, showing side and (enclosed) rear porches | E |
| No. 23 | View past rear elevation to gable ends of the washhouse and drive-through corncrib | E |
| No. 24 | Detail of Flemish bond brick, attic windows, & rebuilt chimney at southwest gable end | N |
| No. 25 | Northeast gable end with attic windows, showing ceiling of open section of rear porch | SW |
| No. 26 | Northeast end of rear porch, with washhouse in background to the right | SW |
| No. 27 | Southeast elevation of Washhouse | N |
| No. 28 | View of interior of 2nd floor of Washhouse, showing beadboard walls & a window | SW |
| No. 29 | View of first floor center hall looking past stair toward doorway with fanlight | SE |
| No. 30 | Detail of stringer, balusters, and handrail at center stairs | N |
| No. 31 | View up center staircase, showing stair treads and gaslight fixture | E |
| No. 33 | View of two windows on rear side of parlor, looking into enclosed rear porch | N |
| No. 34 | Mantelpiece and front windows (southeastern elevation) of parlor | E |
| No. 35 | View of doorway from parlor to center hall | S |
| No. 36 | Detail of mortise and tenon joints and box lock at edge of parlor door | NW |
| No. 37 | Dining Room doorway looking toward Center Hall, showing faux oak graining | E |
| No. 38 | South corner of Dining Room showing window, china cupboard, & mantel | S |
| No. 39 | SW wall of Dining Room, showing china cupboard, mantel, and window | SW |
| No. 40 | View of NW wall of original kitchen, showing cupboard, mantel, and stairs | NW |
| No. 41 | Detail view of back stairs & cupboard beneath them, at original kitchen mantel | N |
| No. 42 | Detail view of cupboard next to chimney in original kitchen | NW |
| No. 43 | Window and chimney cupboards in Master Bedroom | N |
| No. 44 | Detail of top of back stairs and cupboard in rear bedroom | NW |
| No. 45 | Detail of door to attic stairs and second story railing and balusters | NW |
| No. 46 | Attic showing round rafters and nailers for former wood shingle roof | SE |
| No. 47 | Basement showing plastered kitchen space and door out to area below porch | S |
| No. 48 | Back porch showing door to enclosed area used recently as a kitchen | SW |
| No. 49 | Detail view of rear windows to parlor from enclosed back porch | E |
| No. 50 | Open part of rear porch at 2nd story behind master bedroom; note curved ceiling | E |
| No. 51 | Enclosed part of rear porch off rear bedroom; note curved ceiling intersection | W |
| No. 52 | Western gable end of Barn (section added to install milking stalls) | E |
| No. 53 | Southern elevation of Barn, showing stone original section and wood addition | N |
| No. 54 | View of Milk House at northeast corner of Barn | NW |
| No. 55 | Pump behind house nearest to Washhouse | N |
| No. 56 | Pump behind house at corner of enclosed rear porch | E |
| No. 57 | Ca.1880 view of façade of house showing original one-bay porch design | NW |
| No. 56 | Ca.1880 view of farmstead & outlying acreage, w/now-demolished log barn & sheep barn | W |

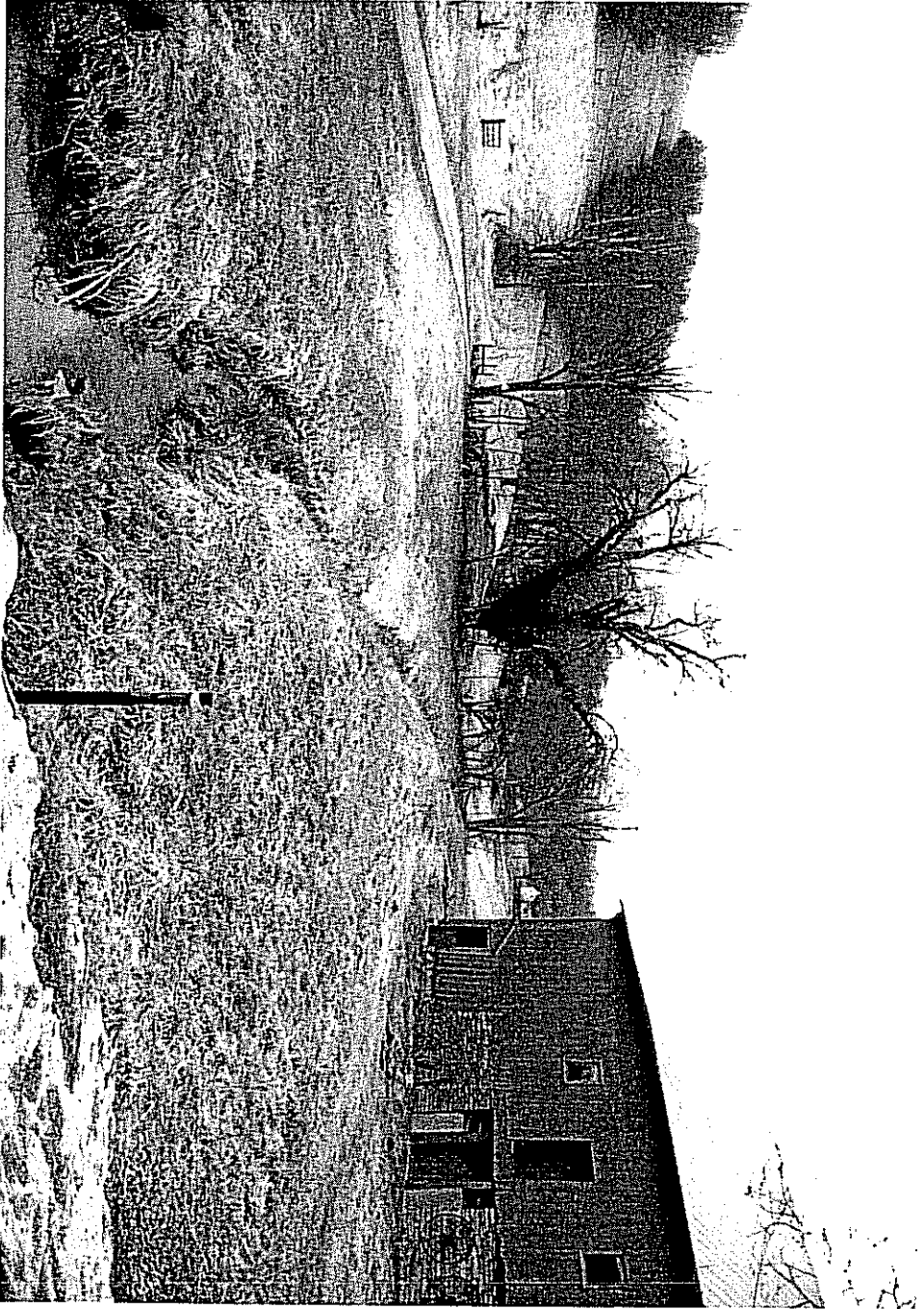




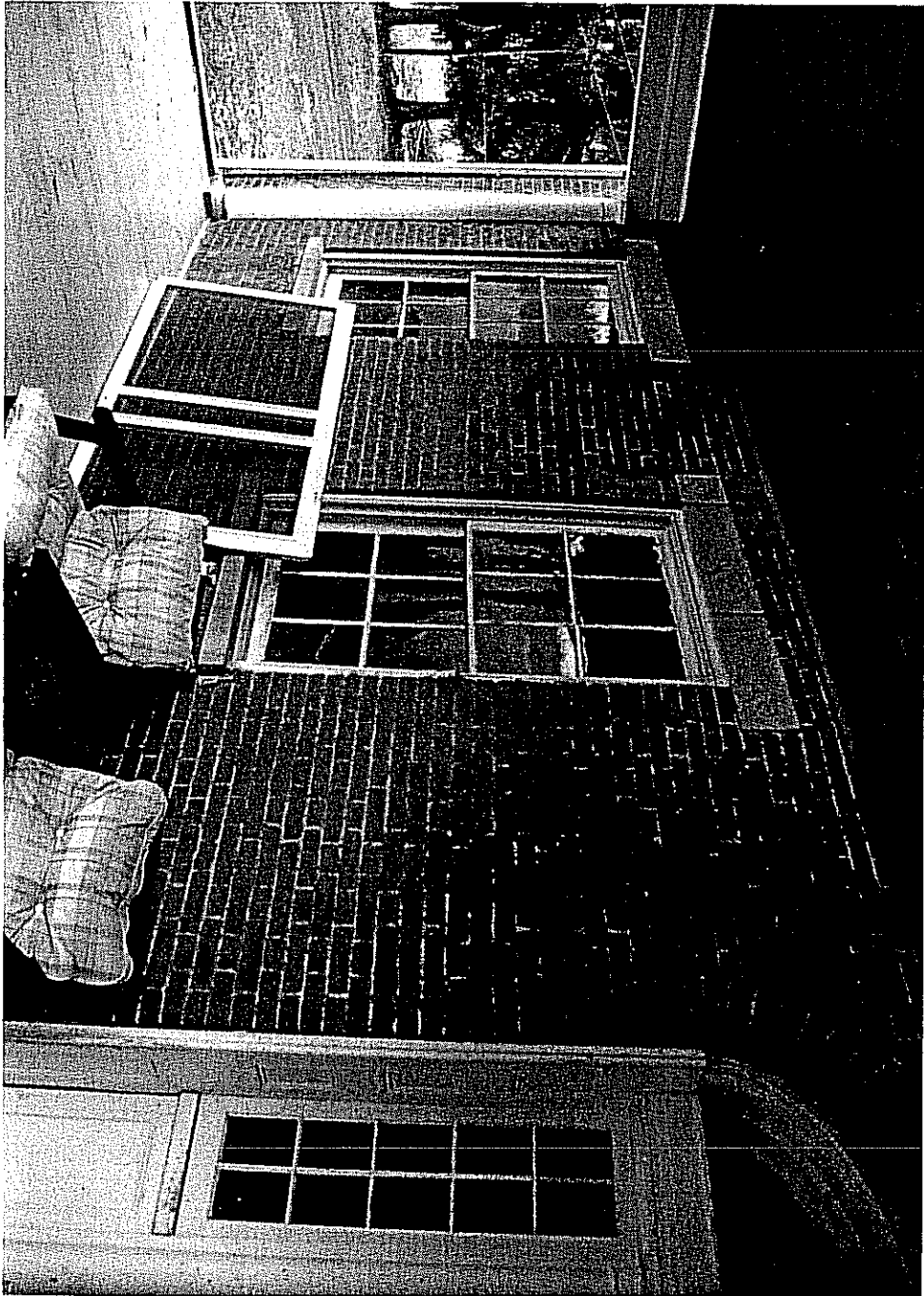


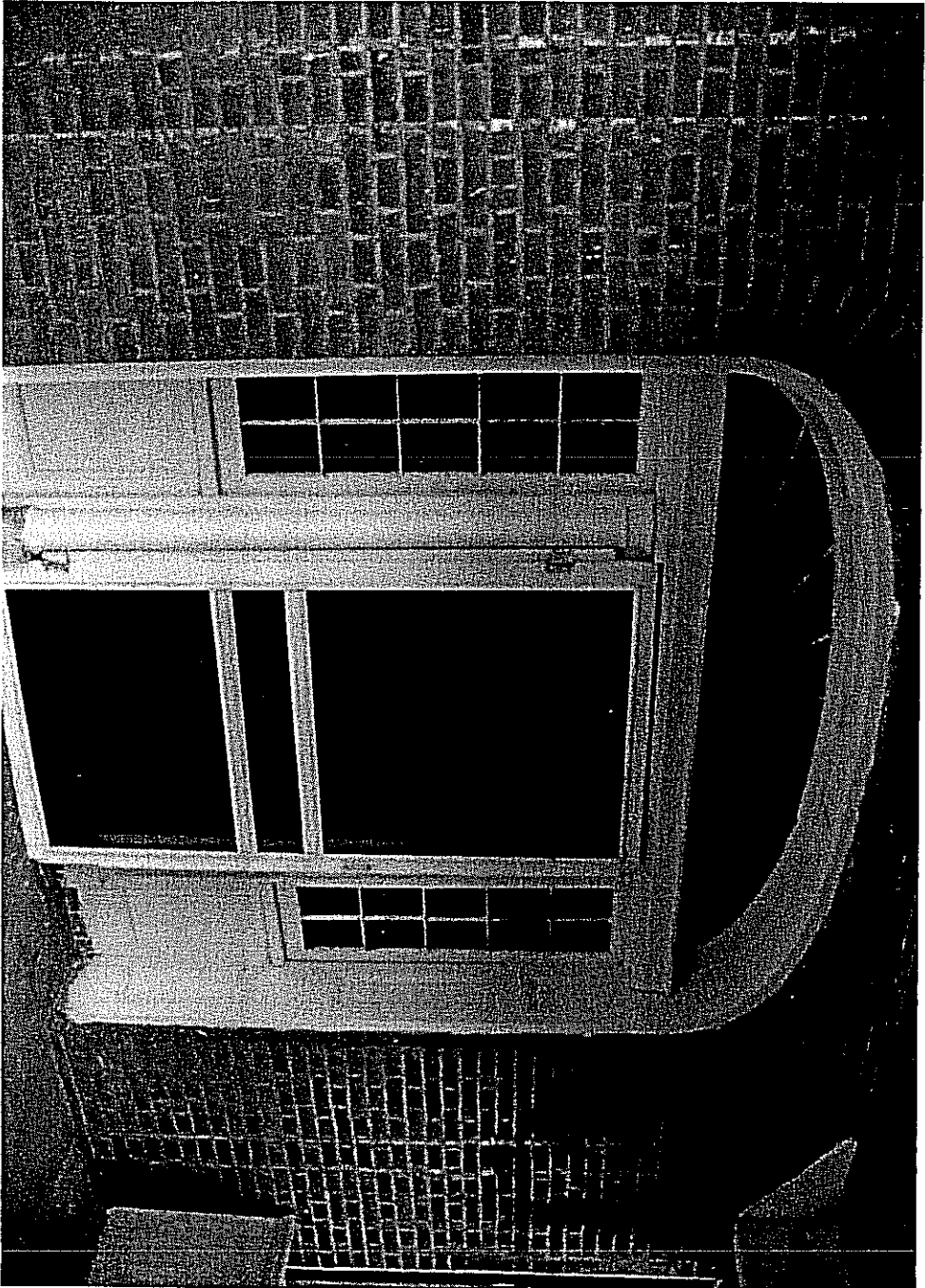


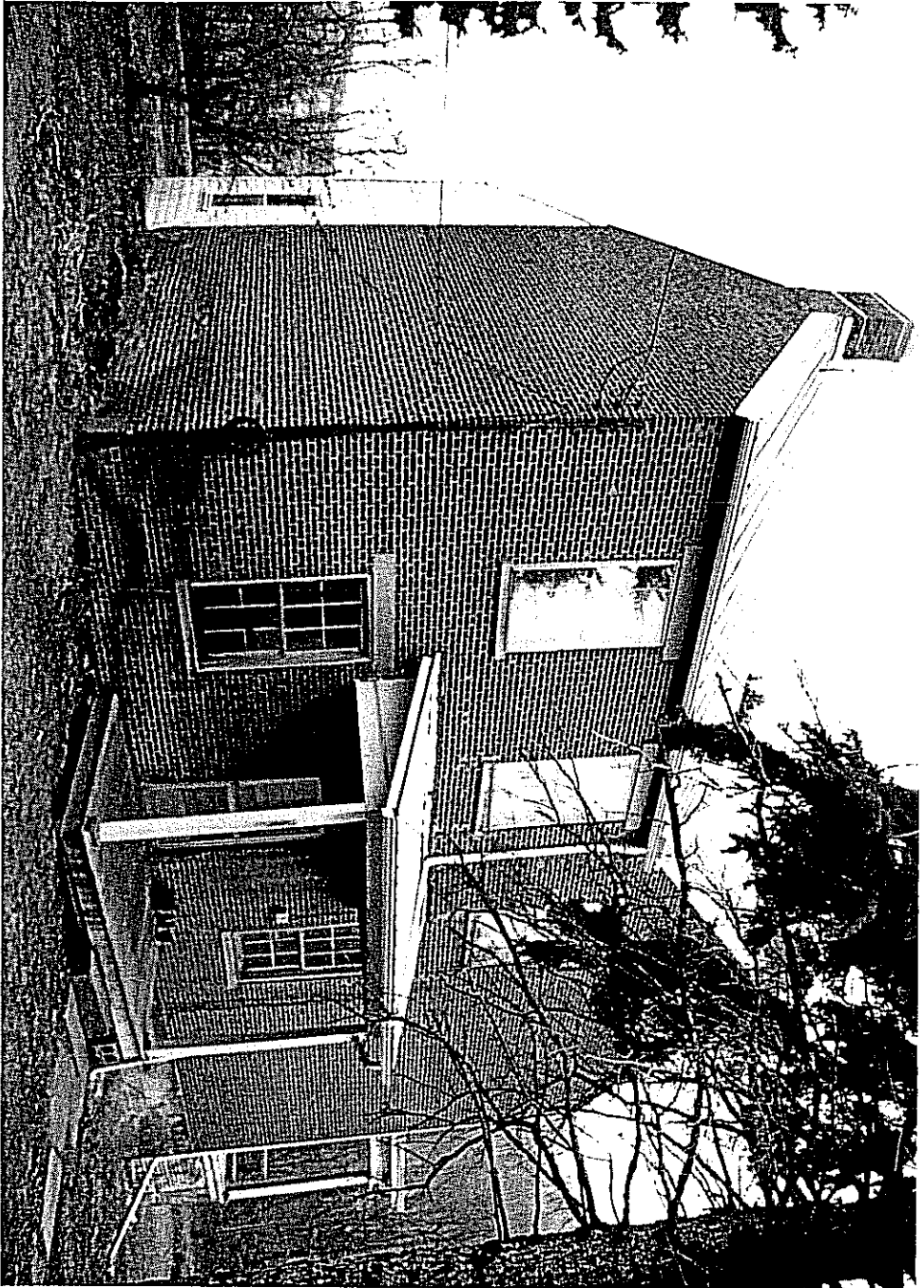


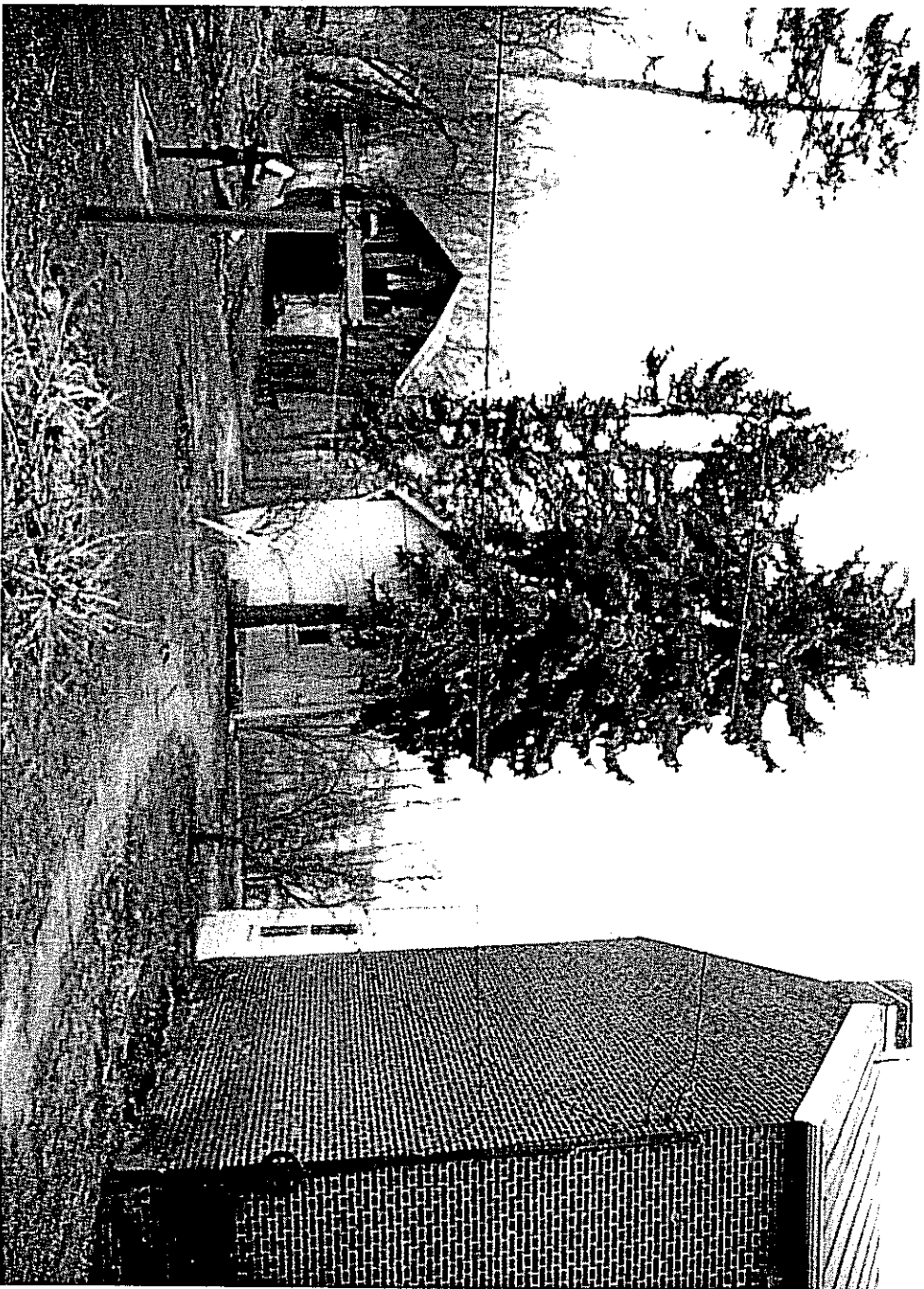


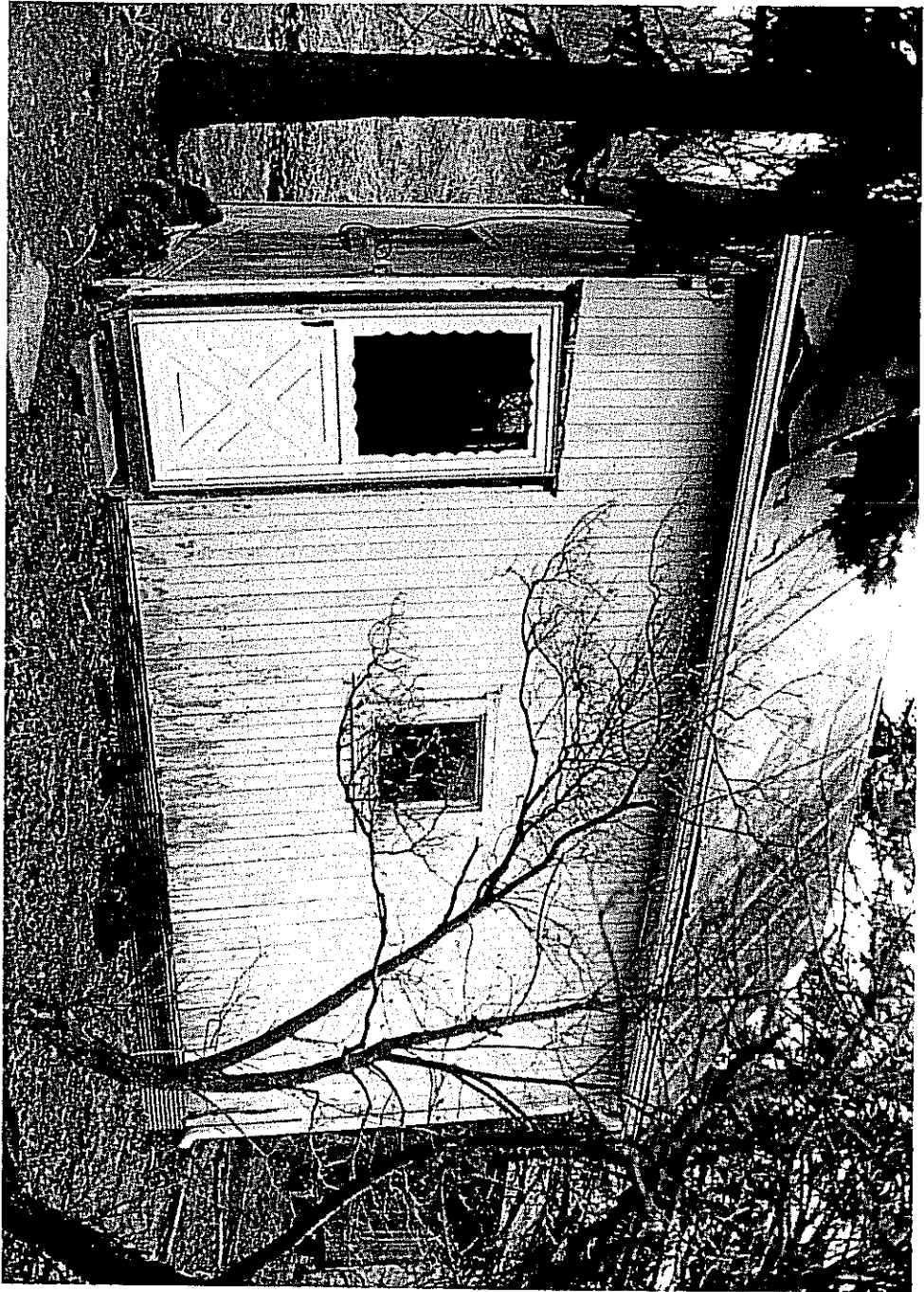


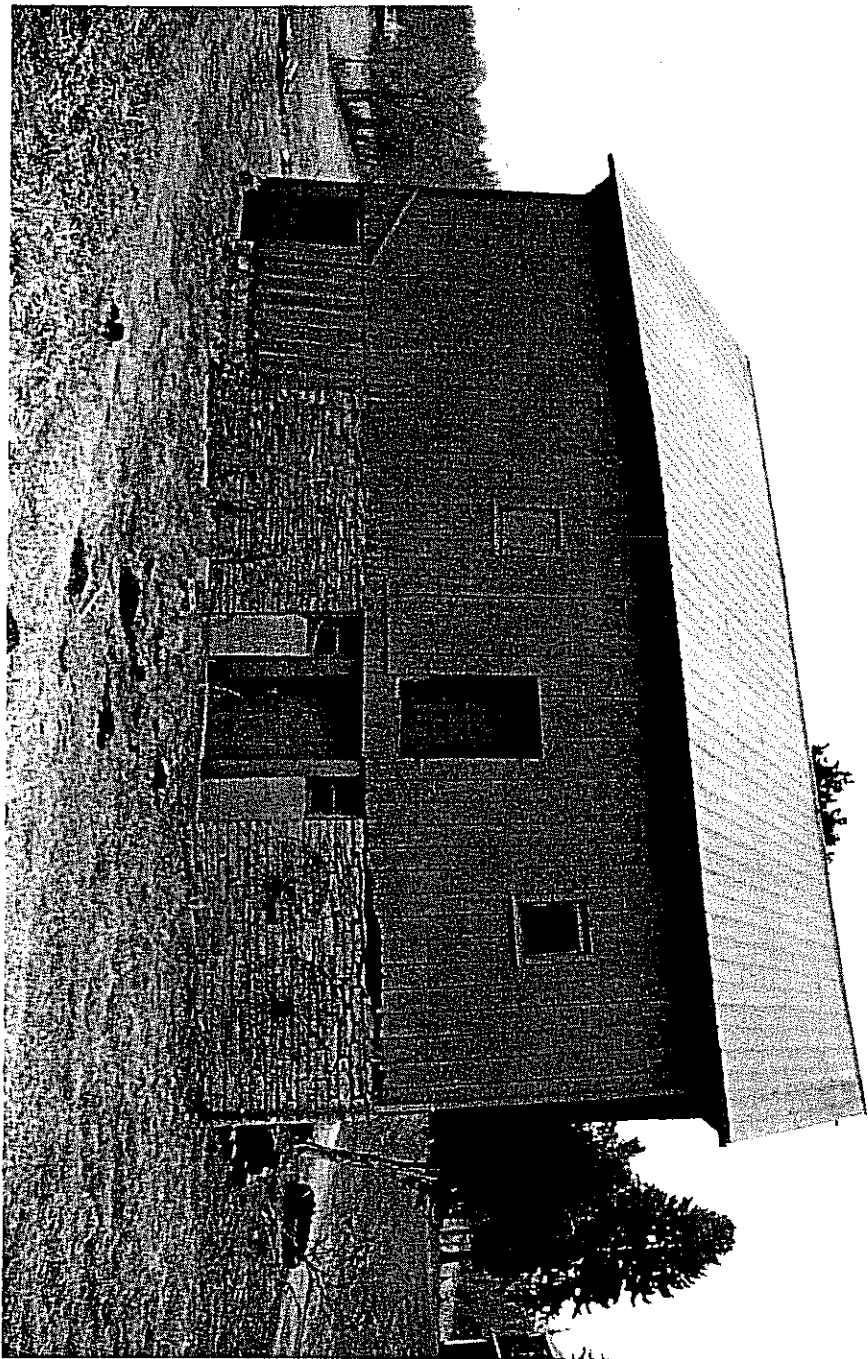












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